

Amendment and Response
Applicants: Dong Shin et al.
Serial No.: 09/852,988

Attorney Docket: SBC1022US

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

Please amend the claims as follows.

Please cancel without prejudice claims 10 to 15, 19, 20 to 24, 37 to 41 to 46, 50, 51 and 53 to 55.

Claims 1 – 15 (canceled)

16. (Currently amended) ~~The method of claim 10, wherein, in the step of providing the delivery catheter, the delivery catheter has~~ A method of loading a stent on a delivery catheter, the delivery catheter having a proximal end and a distal end, the method comprising:

providing a stent having a length, at least a portion of the length of the stent being in a radially contracted position, the stent capable of being dilated from the radially contracted position to a radially expanded position, the stent having a first diameter in the radially contracted position and a second diameter in the radially expanded position, the second diameter being greater than the first diameter;
providing the delivery catheter having a third diameter, the first diameter being smaller than the third diameter;

providing a conical sheath disposed about the proximal end of the delivery catheter;

sliding the stent in the radially contracted position over and past the conical sheath onto the delivery catheter.

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17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the first diameter is smaller than the third diameter by at least 5%.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the first diameter is smaller than the third diameter by at least 25%.

Claims 19 – 24 (canceled)

25. (Previously presented) A method of loading a stent on a delivery catheter, the delivery catheter having a proximal end and a distal end, the method comprising:

providing a stent having a length, at least a portion of the length of the stent being in a radially contracted position, the stent capable of being dilated from the radially contracted position to a radially expanded position, the stent having a first diameter in the radially contracted position and a second diameter in the radially expanded position, the second diameter being greater than the first diameter;

providing the delivery catheter;

providing a conical sheath disposed about the proximal end of the delivery catheter;

sliding the stent in the radially contracted position over the conical sheath onto the delivery catheter such that the stent is expanded to a delivery position, the stent in the delivery position having a delivery diameter, the delivery diameter being greater than the first diameter and less than the second diameter.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 25, wherein the step of ~~disposing~~ providing the conical sheath comprises providing the conical sheath formed from a material having a low coefficient of friction.

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27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 25, wherein the step of ~~disposing~~ providing the conical sheath comprises providing the conical sheath formed from a flexible material.

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 25, wherein the step of ~~disposing~~ providing the conical sheath comprises providing the conical sheath formed from polytetrafluoroethylene.

29. (Original) The method of claim 25, further comprising the step of removing the conical sheath after the stent has been mounted on the delivery catheter.

30. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein, in the step of providing the delivery catheter, the delivery catheter has a third diameter, the first diameter and delivery diameter being smaller than the third diameter.

31. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein the first diameter is smaller than the third diameter by at least 5%.

32. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein the first diameter is smaller than the third diameter by at least 25%.

33. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein, in the step of mounting the stent in the radially contracted position onto the delivery catheter, radial contraction of the delivery catheter occurs.

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Claims 34 – 51 (canceled)

52. (Currently amended) ~~The method of claim 47, wherein, in the step of sliding the stent onto the delivery catheter,~~ A method of loading a stent on a delivery catheter, the delivery catheter having a proximal end and a distal end, the method comprising:

providing a stent having a length, at least a portion of the length of the stent being in a radially contracted position, the stent capable of being dilated from the radially contracted position to a radially expanded position, the stent having a first diameter in the radially contracted position and a second diameter in the radially expanded position, the second diameter being greater than the first diameter;

providing the delivery catheter;

providing a conical sheath disposed about the proximal end of the delivery catheter;

sliding the stent in the radially contracted position over and past the conical sheath onto the delivery catheter, the stent being maintained in a stationary position while moving the delivery catheter, and wherein radial contraction of the delivery catheter occurs.

Claims 53 – 55 (canceled)